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PRICES OF GRAIN, &c.

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
<i>Dublin, March 25th, 1814.</i>	Wheat,...	30	0	to	42	0	<i>middle price</i>	37	3	per bar of 20 st.
	Barley,...	19	0	to	25	0	.....	22	10	per brl. of 16 st.
	Oats,.....	12	0	to	18	0	.....	14	10½	per brl. of 14 st.
	Oatmeal,...	14	0	to	20	0	.....	16	3½	per cwt. of 112 lbs.
<i>BELFAST, March 25, 1814.</i>	Wheat,....	15	0	to	16	0				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Barley,....	10	6	to	12	0				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Oats,.....	9	0	to	9	9				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Oatmeal,...	15	0	to	15	3				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
<i>DROGHEDA, March 26, 1814.</i>	Wheat,.....	40	0	to	43	0				per brl. of 20 st.
	Barley,.....	20	0	to	25	0				per brl. of 16 st.
	Oats,.....	13	0	to	15	6				per brl. of 14 st.
	Oatmeal, ...	15	0	to	15	9				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Potatoes,...	4	2	to	5	0				per brl. of 20 st.
<i>PORTADOWN, March 26, 1814.</i>	Wheat,.....	16	0	to	16	9				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Barley,.....	12	0							per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Oats,.....	8	0	to	8	6				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Oatmeal,...	17	0							per cwt. of 120 lbs.
<i>DUNDALK, March 28, 1814.</i>	Wheat,.....	36	0	to	40	0				per brl.
	Barley,.....	18	0	to	24	0				per brl.
	Oats,.....	12	6	to	20	6				per brl.
	Oatmeal,...	14	0	to	15	6				per brl.
	Potatoes,...	0	2	to	0	2½				per st.
<i>LISBURN, March 29, 1814.</i>	Oats,.....	7	6	to	10	0				per cwt. of 112 lbs.
	Oatmeal,..	15	6	to	16	3				per cwt. of 120 lbs.
	Potatoes,..		2½							per stone.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

TRADE has not yet gained any regular permanent benefits from the changes on the continent, which were anticipated to produce so important advantages. Hitherto a rise has taken place on articles of exports to the continent, as sugar and coffee; but the imports have been small so as not materially to afford compensation by reduction on their prices. The present effect has therefore been a rise on the necessaries of life. A rise also has continued on the raw materials, without a correspondent advance on the manufactured article.

The domestic manufacturing distress of Britain was proclaimed on the examinations, in parliament, which were forced forward on the petitions against the Orders in Council. America saw the difficulties to which our administration had reduced the country, by the pertinacious adherence to this impolitic measure. The manufactures of America are now rapidly advancing, and the capital and exertions formerly engaged in

foreign trade, are turned into the channel of domestic manufactures.\* Taxes bear very heavily on the industry of this country. They enhance the price of manufactures, both directly, and indirectly through their additional operation on agriculture. Thus the middle classes of society are heavily borne down. In some cases, addition to taxation ceases to be productive. The board of Excise are now properly engaged in taking measures to have the window tax, and hearthmoney tax more strictly and equitably levied. This measure is a proper one. When taxes are laid on, they ought to be strictly levied, because the defalcations arising from fraud and concealment do not injure the government so much as our fellow subjects; for government take good care to make up the deficiency by fresh taxes. As some people seem incapable of feeling, except in their pockets, it may be well for them to be brought to a sense of the miseries superinduced by a long protracted warfare. Yet no class of people complain more of the weight of taxes, or seek more to evade them, than the exclusively loyal, who are so clamorous for war. They like the sport, and their share of the profit, but they dislike to bear their proportion of the cost of the expensive game of war. It might be well, if even by the weight of taxes war was rendered unpopular, and a cry raised in favour of peace.

A county meeting of *Noblemen and Gentlemen*, took place at Antrim on the 17th inst. to memorial the board of trade against making any farther alterations in the transit duty of 15 per cent retained on exportation of foreign linens warehoused in Great Britain. By the terms of the call of the meeting, tradesmen were excluded, as if none but the rich were interested, and as if the most opulent draper were not still a tradesman. It bodes ill of the independence and spirit of a country, when those engaged in the honourable pursuits of trade, seem ashamed of their vocations, and seek to creep under the wings of titled and estates men. How odd it would sound to the citizens of London, to call a meeting of noblemen, and the idle gentlemen of Bond-street, to consider some

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\* In confirmation of sentiments on this subject, frequently advanced in these reports, the following quotation from an American paper, with the remarks of a British editor, may be given.

**AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.** In common with the other advocates for the earlier repeal of our Orders in Council, we have uniformly pointed out one amongst the many unavoidable consequences of the present unnatural and protracted struggle with America; a consequence most eloquently expatiated upon in Parliament by Mr. Brougham: we allude to the certainty that America, confined to her own resources, would be compelled to become a great manufacturing nation at a much earlier period than if she remained at peace with this country. This almost inevitable result begins to develop itself in a manner calculated to produce the most alarming apprehensions in the minds of all those who consider an exclusive and unrivalled enjoyment of the foreign markets essential to the prosperity of England.

These remarks have been suggested by the following passage, extracted from the *Providence American*, a newspaper lately received.

"In this town and its vicinity, are now in motion about 120,000 spindles for the spinning of cotton yarn. The amount of yarn spun each week is not far from 110,000 pounds, or 5,500,600 pounds a year. This, if sold, or manufactured into cloth, is worth, at a medium, 8,140,000 dollars, which amount is yearly saved to the country. The raw material, worked up, is little short of 6,000,000 pounds, which at an average of 25 cents, is 1,500,000. If the town of Providence manufactures cotton to this amount, how great must be the quantity manufactured in New England and New York! If the value of this one branch of manufacture be so great, what must be the value of all the branches of manufactures!"

We understand that the town of *Providence*, which does not contain more than 6 or 7000 inhabitants, about four years ago, had only four small spinning factories. It is stated also that New York and New England are equally advanced in this manufacture; and the probability is, that Russia will, at no very distant period, be supplied with cotton yarn from America. LIVERPOOL MERCURY.

point in which the trade of their city was concerned. The independence of the linen trade of Ulster received a deadly wound by the proceedings of their last public meeting in Armagh, in 1808, and it was only a proper sequel to have recourse now to the foreign aid of the landed interest. A spirited people do their own business. The object of memorialing may probably be attained at home, by prevailing on the legislature not to alter the existing duties, but in the event of a general peace, the efforts will most probably be nugatory, and foreign linens will find a direct course from Russia and the North of Germany to Vera Cruz, and the other ports of South America, and to the United States, without passing through Great Britain, and the British West Indian Islands. The trade may thus be lost to Great Britain, but yet not retained by Ireland. A lower scale of taxation, formed on the benefits of a pacific system, would do more to enable coarse Irish linens to enter into competition with those of the continent. The imitation of foreign linens, in which so successful a trade has been latterly carried on, will probably succeed as to the finer fabrics, which are already superior to those of the continent, and is a trade not likely to be injured by an alteration of the duty. The question as to the coarser kinds is likely to turn on the point, whether by lowering, or abating the duty, foreign linens might not, with advantage pass through the hands of our exporting merchants, or whether the trade will not be entirely lost to Britain, by a direct communication being opened between the countries of the manufacture of foreign linens, and the countries in which they are used. As a war measure it was possible to intercept the direct trade, but in the event of a general peace, comparative cheapness, and superiority of quality, can alone decide the competition in the American and West Indian markets.

The Editor of the Newry Telegraph, has undertaken to prove, that the opinions frequently reiterated in these reports, as to the depreciation of bank notes in relative proportion to gold and silver are erroneous. He attempts to prove that considerable quantities of those metals are used for other purposes than of forming a circulating medium. He enumerates many articles, to which they are applied. Our answer is that the quantity thus required is so small in comparison with the quantity of bullion in the market, both at home and abroad, as to have little effect on the prices. Goldbeaters leaf, and silver plating are very thin, and have little substance, and since gold and silver have advanced in price from the demand in the money-market they are much less frequently and in smaller quantities used in fabricating ornaments. The fluctuations in their prices arise from their being a means to regulate the inequalities of exchange, and to measure the depreciation of paper currency, which otherwise as at present has no real criterion. Before our remarks are invalidated, it will be necessary for the writer to enter more deeply into the doctrine of exchanges, and the means to lessen the too abundant issue of banks whether public or private, without an obligation to pay in coin, as the only standard to regulate the excess. To enlarge farther would only be to repeat what has been often before asserted, in the Commercial Report, and would be tiresome to the reporter, and the readers of the Magazine, as the reasoning in the Telegraph is not considered to invalidate our previous reasoning. To such readers, as will take the trouble of re-examining what has been advanced on the subject, we submit the matter in difference.

Adam Smith certainly never contemplated a state of paper credit not reducible at the will of the holder into metallic money. If such a supposition had been mentioned in his day, he would it is likely have treated it as a speculation too wild, too visionary, and too daring to be realized in any country, which was not rapidly advancing to a state of bankruptcy; yet men with all this shock of credit fully in their view, comfort themselves that things will go on pretty nearly in the present state during their time; at least they resolve to make the most of existing circumstances, and contrive to turn the circulating medium into a source of present gain. The dealing in guineas was formerly a source of profit, and now other modes of financial tactics are introduced.

The rate of exchange has been through this month about four per cent. There is a monopoly of dealing in exchange, and so long as fixing a rate for exchange, is made the terms for discounting Belfast paper, so long will the general course of

exchange, be turned out of its channel, to the injury of the real buyers and sellers of English bills.

It appears by advertisements in the news papers, that some impositions have been practised by the Weigh-masters on articles brought to the market of Belfast. In the present sunk state of public spirit, it is probable the people will submit to be farther fleeced, rather than legally to redress themselves. There is in almost every instance a want of co-operation in those who are aggrieved, which gives the confidence of impunity to those who extort more than the law allows, and thus timidity encourages the progress of imposition.

### NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From the 20th January, 1813, to the 20th March, 1814.*

*From observations made in the neighbourhood of Belfast. Latitude 54° 35 min. 43 sec.  
Longitude 5° 58 min. 14 sec. West of London.*

AFTER such severe weather as we have lately experienced, our curiosity is naturally excited to inquire if ever the like has happened at any prior period.

To gratify those who may not have an opportunity of seeing the celebrated Miller's Gardiner's Dictionary, an account of the frost of 1739-40, commonly called the Great Frost is here inserted.

"The frost commenced early in November, but towards the end of the month, the frost abated, and there was little more than slight morning frost until Christmas day; but on the 28th the wind blew with great force from the North East. On the 29th the wind changed to the South East and blew with great fury; the thermometer fell this day to 25° below frost (7°); the cold increasing, the waters were all frozen over, and that day was so intense, as to freeze the water of the Thames, which was raised by the force of the wind, into ice, before it fell down again.

"By the piercing winds the grass was almost totally burnt up.

"On the 4th of January, although no wind was stirring, the timber trees suffered greatly, especially the oaks, which were split with great violence, and noise resembling the breaking down of large branches, and when heard at a distance, like the firing of guns. The oaks in general had received so much injury from the frost, as to occasion such a weakness and distemper among them, that the following spring they were infected with insects to such a degree, that their leaves were eaten and entirely destroyed by them: so that at midsummer, they were as naked as if it had been the beginning of April. Many cattle were killed. Walnut, ash, and several other trees, had their last year's shoots killed."

Although the cold of this season has not been so severe as that described, yet much injury has been done to many trees and shrubs, and it is likely the effects will be more discernible when the season is farther advanced. At present, the Lauristinus (*Viburnum Tinus*); Portugal Laurel (*Prunus Lusitanica*); Common Laurel (*Prunus Lauro Cerasus*); Rock Rose, or Gum Cistus (*Cistus Ladaniferus*); Cretan Cistus (*Cistus Creticus*); Tree Heath (*Erica Arborea*); Southern Heath (*Erica Australis*); Mediterranean Heath (*Erica Mediterranea*); and common Furze (*Ulex Europæus*), in many situations are killed down to the ground, or have their young branches destroyed. A plant of the Square-podded Sophora, or *Edwardsia* (*Edwardsia Microphylla*); and Daysmelling Coronilla (*Coronilla Glauca*), which, trained against a wall, had stood the frost of several winters, are either killed down to the ground, or have their branches of two or three years growth killed; but in opposition to these losses, the Gold Plant (*Aucuba Japonica*); the Japan Allspice (*Calycanthus Præcox*); Japan Apple Tree (*Pyrus Japonica*); and Japan Corchorus (*Corchorus Japonicus*), have passed the winter in the open ground: flower buds are at the present time on the two last, nearly ready for expanding. But amongst the most serious evils which the severity of the winter has produced, is the loss of numbers of birds, those guardians who watch and restrain